

Meets Media," concerning how UNT master's of public administration students training at Denton City Hall. Now, Lauren works as a weekend overnight anchor for local powerhouse WBAP and will soon be a part time producer for the local FOX 4 News.

Today, I congratulate Ms. Lauren Williamson on her broadcasting awards and her dedication to the profession of journalism. May her intellect, reporting and producing skills continue to serve her community with accurate and informative news. I am honored to represent Ms. Williamson in Congress, and I look forward to hearing more of her accomplishments in the years to come.

CONDEMNING MURDER OF AMERICAN JOURNALIST PAUL KLEBNIKOV ON JULY 9, 2004, IN MOSCOW AND MURDERS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 499, condemning the murder of American journalist Paul Klebnikov in Moscow and the murders of other members of the media in the Russian Federation.

Less than two weeks ago, on World Press Freedom Day, my colleague MIKE PENCE and I launched the new Congressional Caucus for Freedom of the Press. Representatives from a variety of non-governmental organizations came to extend their endorsement of this undertaking and several other Members of Congress spoke about the importance of press freedom for promoting democracy and human rights around the world.

The guests of honor, however—and the reason we were all there—were the journalists who came to share their stories of persecution and harassment. He Qinglian spent a year under 24-hour surveillance when the Chinese Propaganda Department accused her of 'inciting antagonism between the different strata of Chinese society' with her exposes of government corruption. After trying to investigate the presence of Taliban and Al-Qaeda elements in tribal areas in the autonomous zone between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Khawar Mehdi Rizvi was detained and tortured by Pakistani security forces for almost three months, before human rights groups and media organizations helped secure his escape to the United States.

We were also joined by Musa Klebnikov, the widow of American journalist, Paul Klebnikov, whose unresolved murder this resolution condemns. Mrs. Klebnikov told us that Paul believed that without freedom of the press there is no civil society, and can be no true democracy. He died for this ideal, becoming one of the fallen heroes of this ongoing worldwide struggle.

Paul committed himself to revealing the corrupt underside of Russia as well as celebrating its successes. His murder reveals both the importance of this type of work as well as the dangers facing journalists in the Russian Federation. Paul was the twelfth reporter to be killed in Russia since President Putin came to

power in 2000. Russia's press laws remain very far below European standards and in the nearly two years since Paul's murder, working conditions for journalists continued to worsen alarmingly.

Paul's murder stimulated the Russian government to dedicate real effort to prosecuting the hit men who shot him, and this resolution commends that effort. Unfortunately, two days after expressing her hope that this trial would set a standard for future cases of media persecution, the Russian court acquitted his killers. This resolution calls upon the Government of Russia to continue its inquiries into Paul's murder and to take appropriate action to protect the independence and freedom of journalists in the country.

Paul Klebnikov's murder exposed the problem of violence against journalists in Russia and increased the awareness of widespread threats to press freedom. The Congressional Caucus for Freedom of the Press was created to highlight and condemn media censorship and the persecution of journalists around the world. This Resolution is an important affirmation of these objectives, and I commend my colleague, Mr. MCCOTTER, for bringing it to the floor, and encourage broad support for its passage.

RECOGNIZING CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 751, recognizing American Ballet Theatre as a cultural and educational resource for our Nation.

Over the last 65 years, American Ballet Theatre has elevated the artistry and talent of classical dance in the United States, and has brought a greater appreciation and understanding of the arts to countless people in all 50 States and around the world.

American Ballet Theatre has developed a special relationship with Connecticut through the award-winning Make a Ballet Program.

Since 2002, ABT has been offering this program at The Waterside School, an independent, private day school in Stamford, which introduces low-income children to ballet. ABT Teaching Artists come to the school twice a week and provide a thorough introduction to the arts and high-quality dance instruction. This long-term, in-depth exposure to the arts leaves indelible impacts on the students, instilling a sense of confidence and accomplishment, and planting seeds that will reap appreciation for the arts for years to come.

American Ballet Theatre also holds a Ballet for the Young Dancer program at the YWCA in Greenwich each year, providing children between the ages of 5 and 12 with weekly ballet classes with some of the finest dancers in the world.

While the grand performances that American Ballet Theatre presents have established it as one of the world's great ballet companies, it is the interactions with local communities across America that truly distinguish ABT as a national treasure.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN HONOR OF ARNOLD R. PINKNEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Arnold R. Pinkney, dedicated family man, successful businessman, community activist, dedicated volunteer and friend and mentor to many, as he is being honored by the Community of Living Hope United Methodist Church of Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Mr. Pinkney was born and raised in Youngstown and graduated from the Youngstown Public Schools. His quest for higher education led him to Michigan, where he graduated from Albion College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History. His personal integrity, strong self-motivation and unwavering dedication has guided him his whole life. During college, he was elected to "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities," was President of the Independent Men's Union, and was a member of the Intercollegiate Athletic Association Team for Baseball and Basketball.

The focus on hard work and giving back to others continues to frame Mr. Pinkney's life. He is the Chairman of Pinkney-Perry Insurance Agency, a 41-year-old business located in Cleveland. He is also Senior Consultant and CEO of Betpin & Associates, a consulting firm established by his wife of 45 years, Betty Thompson Pinkney. His dedication to his wife and daughter, Traci Lynne Pinkney, extends outward into the community, where his spirit of volunteerism, leadership and energy continues to empower and support numerous local civic, educational, political and business agencies, including the Urban League, 100 Black Men, Inc., Cleveland Musical Arts Association, University Circle Incorporated, and the Race for Success, Inc.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join us in honor of Arnold R. Pinkney, as we join with the Community of Living Hope United Methodist Church in recognition of his dedicated service and contribution focused on family, faith and community. Mr. Pinkney's numerous contributions within the private and public sector continues to strengthen the well being of our entire Cleveland community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I missed rollcall vote 146 on Thursday, May 11, 2006. Had I been present I would have voted "aye." This was a vote on H. Res. 802, a resolution to encourage all eligible Medicare beneficiaries who have not yet elected to enroll in the new Medicare Part D benefit to review the available options and to determine whether enrollment in a Medicare prescription drug plan best meets their current